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THE EXTENSION HORTICULTURIST

July 1, 1921.

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*      Some people are natural born pessimists
* and simply cannot look upon the bright side
* of things. The successful extension special-
* ist is never a pessimist, but does not go too
* far to the other extreme.
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*      This brings up the question, what are the
* qualities that go to make up the successful
* extension specialist -
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*                               Who can answer?
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Office of Horticultural and Pomological Investigations
and States Relations Service Cooperating.
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

One of the objects of "The Extension Horticulturist" is to provide for an exchange of ideas between those engaged in the work and to get the workers better acquainted with each other. We have had several requests for copies of our mailing list of horticultural extension workers and have decided to send the complete list to all. Corrections and additions will be made from time to time.

Mr. M. Hull, Sweet Potato Specialist for Louisiana, suggests the following:

"What I presume you term the special fruit number of the Extension Horticulturist for June is prompting the query, "Can't we have a special sweet potato number?" A statement from the horticulturist or each sweet potato producing state or each specialist engaged in that particular line would, I believe, be of interest, if summarized in the Extension Horticulturist."

While it is our desire to deal primarily with plans and methods of conducting horticultural extension work, we like the suggestion made by Mr. Hull and are willing to put it into effect, provided the state workers will give us the information

Sweet potatoes have become a very important money crop in about 10 of the southern states and are grown to some extent for the market in at least 5 or 6 of the middle states. Sweet potatoes can also be grown for home use as far north as southern Michigan and southern New York, especially if the right varieties are planted. This makes the sweet potato of almost country wide interest and if the state workers will give their experiences, we will devote the next "Extension Horticulturist" to a symposium on sweet potatoes. Side lights on the so called "Patented" sweet potato curing plants will be in order.

In going about the country one finds more apples on the trees than previous reports indicated and here and there a small section where there is a good crop of peaches. Last week the writer visited Bergen and Passaic Counties in northern New Jersey and found a good prospect for peaches also some apples.

Just at present the "Sand Hills" section of North and South Carolina is putting some fine peaches on our eastern markets. This section has not had a peach failure in many years and promises to become one of the leading producing sections of the eastern United States. The present development of peach growing in the "Sand Hills" section is largely due to the leadership extended by a few of the men connected with the horticultural work of the state colleges.



Prof. L. C. Corbett and Mr. L. B. Scott of this office attended the recent meeting of the American Nurserymen's Association at Chicago. A pleasing feature of this convention was the delivery of an address by Hon. E. T. Meredith, former Secretary of Agriculture, on the work of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the needs of agricultural work in all of its phases. In view of the fact that Mr. Meredith speaks from the standpoint of one who knows the inside facts his statements are particularly significant and agricultural workers the country over are fortunate in having so forceful and ardent a champion of their cause.

Plans of work for the coming year have been submitted by most of the states. We wish it were possible to reproduce two or three of these, especially those of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. At some future time we will give parts of several plans as a suggestion to the state specialists. Mr. Nissley of New Jersey has certainly planned a full line of work but has it so systematized that he can put it over. Mr. W. B. Nissley of Pennsylvania has his plan in graphic form and so expressed that the whole year's work can be seen at a glance. The real secret of getting the work across is organization and cooperation. The state specialist who is trying to do all the work himself is not getting far with it but those who have the county agents and other members of the extension service following directions and looking after the local phases of the work are getting results.

Mr. Hull of Louisiana writes us that Mr. B. Szymoniak, who has been fruit and nut specialist for the Extension Division of Louisiana since October, 1918, will on the first of July, take charge of the new Fruit and Truck Station at Hammond, Louisiana. Mr. Szymoniak is spending the month of June honeymooning in Central America, having taken to himself a bride on June 7th.

Mr. W. S. Brock, fruit extension specialist of Illinois, was a caller at the Department on June 29th. Mr. Brock has just returned from a visit to the Fort Valley, Georgia, peach district and reports the growers of that district in a happy mood over the prospects. Early peaches are now past the height of their movement and have brought good prices. Belle's are now moving and are of excellent quality and color. Elbertas will start to move immediately after July 4th and the prospects are excellent. Weather conditions up to the present in the Georgia peach district have been ideal and no brown rot has appeared.

Everybody please send us some personals for use in the Extension Horticulturist.

